

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A macrophage infecting parasite which is a strain of *Leishmania* and which is transformed by a plasmid containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF) gene and which parasite expresses GM-CSF.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said strain of *Leishmania* is selected from the group consisting of *Leishmania donovani*, *Leishmania braziliensis*, *Leishmania tarentolae*, *Leishmania major*, *Leishmania mexicana*, *Leishmania tropica* and *Leishmania aethiopica*.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encoding GM-CSF gene is of murine origin.
6. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encoding GM-CSF gene is of human origin.
7. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encoding GM-CSF gene is expressed using the α -tubulin intergenic sequences of *Leishmania enrietti*.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) The parasite of claim 1 wherein at least one nucleic acid molecule gene of the parasite contributing to virulence thereof has been functionally disabled.
10. (Currently amended) A macrophage infecting parasite which is a strain of *Leishmania* and which is transformed by a plasmid containing a nucleic acid molecule

encoding a granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF) gene and which parasite expresses GM-CSF and at least one additional cytokine.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously added) A macrophage infecting parasite which is a strain of *Leishmania* selected from the group consisting of *Leishmania donovani* and *Leishmania major* and which has been transformed by a plasmid vector selected from the group consisting of pneo-mGM CSF and pneo-hGM CSF and which expresses a granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF).